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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/072,018	02/05/2002	Cheryl L. Beaver	SD-6823	1911
20567	7590	02/02/2006	EXAMINER	
SANDIA CORPORATION			BAUM, RONALD	
P O BOX 5800			ART UNIT	
MS-0161			PAPER NUMBER	
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87185-0161			2136	

DATE MAILED: 02/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/072,018	BEAVER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ronald Baum	2136	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 12-17, 21-23 and 25-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 9-11, 18-20 and 24 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>No. 4</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in reply to applicant's correspondence of 03 February 2005.
2. Claims 1-27 are pending for examination.
3. Claims 1-8, 12-17, 21-23, 25-27 are rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Where applicant acts as his or her own lexicographer to specifically define a term of a claim contrary to its ordinary meaning, the written description must clearly redefine the claim term and set forth the uncommon definition so as to put one reasonably skilled in the art on notice that the applicant intended to so redefine that claim term. *Process Control Corp. v. HydReclaim Corp.*, 190 F.3d 1350, 1357, 52 USPQ2d 1029, 1033 (Fed. Cir. 1999). The term "random number" in claims 1-3,13,25,26 and associated dependent claims, is used by the claim to mean a true "random number", while the accepted meaning is "pseudo-random number." The term is indefinite because the specification does not clearly redefine the term (see Yolkowski, James, 'Randomness', Math Lair, 6/16/2001, entire document, <http://www.stormloader.com/ajy/random.html>).

The term "absolute" in claim 22 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "absolute" is not defined sufficiently by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. Correction is required.

The term "relative" in claim 23 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "relative" is not defined sufficiently by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

4. Claims 1-8, 12-17, 21-23, 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by England et al, U.S. Patent 6,327,652 B1.

5. As per claim 1; "A method of performing electronic communications between members of a group wherein the communications are authenticated as being from a member of the group and have not been altered, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a plurality of random numbers [figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components insofar as signing via a public key encryption process thereby generating uniquely signed components (i.e., pseudo-random data structures), as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the 'plurality of random numbers' aspects of the claim.];

distributing in a digital medium the plurality of random numbers to

the members of the group [figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed components are distributed to the users/network node processing elements, insofar as the customers of the DRM content of which the secure operating system components form the environment from which the content is so accessed, as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘...distributing in a digital medium ... group ...’ aspects of the claim.];

publishing a hash value of contents of the digital medium [figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components insofar as signing via a public key encryption process thereby generating uniquely signed components (i.e., hashed components prior to the cryptographic signing process) and subsequent hash/certificate verification prior to allowing the secure operating system components to process the DRM functions, as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘publishing a hash value ...’ aspects of the claim.];

distributing to the members of the group

public-key-encrypted messages each containing

a same token comprising

a random number [figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components insofar as signing via a public key encryption process thereby generating uniquely signed components (i.e., hashed components prior to the cryptographic signing process) and the public key certificate contains a certificate signing authority/entity private key signed verification content (common token

element that is commonly distributed), as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘... distributing ... group ... public-key-encrypted messages ... token ... random number’ aspects of the claim.]; and

encrypting a message with a key generated from

the token and

the plurality of random numbers [figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components signed, distributed, encrypted/decrypted, and verified for use in the DRM functions, as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘encrypting a message ... token ... random numbers’ aspects of the claim.]”.

6. Claim 2 ***additionally recites*** the limitation that; “The method of claim 1 wherein the generating step comprises

generating at least approximately 20,000 random numbers.”.

The teachings of England et al suggest such limitations (i.e., figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components insofar as signing via a public key encryption process thereby generating uniquely signed components (i.e., pseudo-random data structures), of which the client base for which distribution is to occur is clearly greater than 20,000 users (i.e., installed secured operating systems per se, each with at least a signed secure operating system component), as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly

encompasses the ‘plurality of random numbers ... approximately 20,000 ...’ aspects of the claim.).

7. Claim 3 *additionally recites* the limitation that; “The method of claim 2 wherein the generating step comprises

generating 256-bit random numbers.”.

The teachings of England et al suggest such limitations (i.e., figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components insofar as signing via a public key encryption process thereby generating uniquely signed components (i.e., pseudo-random data structures), of which the client base for which distribution is to occur is clearly greater than 20,000 users (i.e., installed secured operating systems per se, each with at least a signed secure operating system component, of which said component would generally be greater than 256 bits (32 bytes)), as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘plurality of random numbers ... approximately 20,000 ... 256-bit random ...’ aspects of the claim.).

8. Claim 4 *additionally recites* the limitation that; “The method of claim 1 wherein the step of distributing in a digital medium comprises

distributing in a removable digital medium.”.

The teachings of England et al suggest such limitations (i.e., figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the components, of which the client base for which distribution is to occur is clearly a function of the digital medium distribution software which, as broadly interpreted by

the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘distributing ... digital medium ... removable ... medium’ aspects of the claim.).

9. Claim 5 *additionally recites* the limitation that; “The method of claim 4 wherein the step of distributing in a digital medium comprises

distributing in a medium selected from the group consisting of

CD-ROMS and

DVD-ROMS.”.

The teachings of England et al suggest such limitations (i.e., figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the components, of which the client base for which distribution is to occur is clearly a function of the digital medium distribution software which is embodied on CD-ROM and other associated removable optical memory technologies, as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘distributing ... digital medium ... removable ... medium ... CD-ROMS...’ aspects of the claim.).

10. Claim 6 *additionally recites* the limitation that; “The method of claim 1 wherein the steps of publishing a hash value comprises

employing a Secure Hash Algorithm.”.

The teachings of England et al suggest such limitations (i.e., figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components insofar as signing via a public key encryption process thereby generating uniquely signed components (i.e., hashed components prior to the cryptographic signing process) and subsequent hash/certificate

verification prior to component transfer (i.e., utilizing associated data structure storage, via X.509, and SSL transfer; both using SHA hashing services/functionality), and subsequent allowing the secure operating system components to process the DRM functions, as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘publishing a hash value ... Secure Hash Algorithm’ aspects of the claim.).

11. Claim 7 *additionally recites* the limitation that; “The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of

rejecting a digital medium received by a user if

a hash value of contents of the received digital medium does not equal

the published hash value of the contents of the distributed digital

medium.”.

The teachings of England et al suggest such limitations (i.e., figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components signed, distributed, encrypted/decrypted, and verified for use in the DRM functions if so verified, else, rejected (i.e., not used as an operating system component for the DRM services), as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘rejecting ... medium ... does not equal ... published hash value ...’ aspects of the claim.).

12. Claim 8 *additionally recites* the limitation that; “The method of claim 1 wherein the step of distributing a token

is performed daily.”.

The teachings of England et al suggest such limitations (i.e., figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components signed, distributed, encrypted/decrypted, and verified for use in the DRM functions such that ephemeral keys used for the certificate verification functions, as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘distributing a token ... performed daily ...’ aspects of the claim.).

13. Claim 12 *additionally recites* the limitation that; “The method of claim 1 wherein the encrypting step comprises

employing symmetric key encryption.”.

The teachings of England et al suggest such limitations (i.e., figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components signed, distributed, encrypted/decrypted, and verified for use in the DRM functions such that private/session keys (i.e., symmetric encryption), as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘... symmetric key encryption’ aspects of the claim.).

14. Claim 13 *additionally recites* the limitation that; “The method of claim 1 wherein the encrypting step comprises

choosing randomly one of the plurality of random numbers.”.

The teachings of England et al suggest such limitations (i.e., figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components insofar as signing via a public key encryption process thereby generating uniquely signed components (i.e., pseudo-random data structures), so that the DRM functions become a function of the ‘pseudo-random

data structures', as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the 'choosing randomly ... plurality of random numbers' aspects of the claim.).

15. Claim 14 *additionally recites* the limitation that; "The method of claim 13 additionally comprising the step of

sending the encrypted message with

an index to the randomly chosen number and

a timestamp sufficient to enable a recipient to determine

a proper decryption token."

The teachings of England et al suggest such limitations (i.e., figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components insofar as signing via a public key encryption process thereby generating uniquely signed components (i.e., hashed components prior to the cryptographic signing process) and subsequent hash/certificate verification prior to component transfer (i.e., utilizing associated data structure storage, via X.509, and SSL transfer; both using inherent referencing of signed components for actual secure operating system components utilization), and subsequent allowing the secure operating system components to process the DRM functions such that ephemeral keys used for the certificate verification functions (i.e., inherently timestamp), as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the 'encrypted message ... index ... number ... timestamp ... proper decryption token' aspects of the claim.).

16. Claim 15 *additionally recites* the limitation that; "The method of claim 1 wherein

the group is a domain.”.

The teachings of England et al suggest such limitations (i.e., figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed components are distributed to the users/network node processing elements, insofar as the customers of the DRM content of which the secure operating system components form the environment from which the content is so accessed, and further, the group receiving the DRM content via a network infrastructure (i.e., the Internet; an inherently domain oriented network architecture), as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘...group is a domain’ aspects of the claim.).

17. Claim 16 ***additionally recites*** the limitation that; “The method of claim 1 wherein one or more members of the group is a domain.”.

The teachings of England et al suggest such limitations (i.e., figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed components are distributed to the users/network node processing elements, insofar as the customers of the DRM content of which the secure operating system components form the environment from which the content is so accessed, and further, the group receiving the DRM content via a network infrastructure (i.e., the Internet; an inherently domain oriented network architecture, of which sub-elements of the Internet, are themselves domains), as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘...group is a domain’ aspects of the claim.).

18. Claim 17 ***additionally recites*** the limitation that; “The method of claim 1 wherein anonymity of a sender of the message is maintained.”.

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The teachings of England et al suggest such limitations (i.e., figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components signed, distributed, encrypted/decrypted, and verified for use in the DRM functions, and further encompassing use of the CPU ID public key signing aspects of the signed/verified components (i.e., assured anonymous CPU ID with authentication), as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘anonymity ... sender ... message is maintained’ aspects of the claim.).

19. Claim 21 *additionally recites* the limitation that; “The method of claim 1 wherein the method provides

absolute anonymity for communications between the members.”.

The teachings of England et al suggest such limitations (i.e., figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components signed, distributed, encrypted/decrypted, and verified for use in the DRM functions, and further encompassing use of the CPU ID public key signing aspects of the signed/verified components (i.e., assured anonymous CPU ID with authentication), as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘absolute anonymity ... between the members’ aspects of the claim.).

20. Claim 22 *additionally recites* the limitation that; “The method of claim 21 wherein the method provides

absolute anonymity

as to authorship of the communications and

as to electronic mail routing of the communications.”.

The teachings of England et al suggest such limitations (i.e., figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components signed, distributed, encrypted/decrypted, and verified for use in the DRM functions, and further encompassing use of the CPU ID public key signing aspects of the signed/verified components (i.e., assured anonymous CPU ID with authentication), as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘absolute anonymity ... between the members’ aspects of the claim.).

21. Claim 23 *additionally recites* the limitation that; “The method of claim 1 wherein the method provides

relative anonymity for communications between the members.”.

The teachings of England et al suggest such limitations (i.e., figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components signed, distributed, encrypted/decrypted, and verified for use in the DRM functions, and further encompassing use of the CPU ID public key signing aspects of the signed/verified components (i.e., assured anonymous CPU ID with authentication), as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘absolute anonymity ... between the members’ aspects of the claim.).

22. As per claim 25; “A method of performing anonymous electronic communications between members of a group wherein the communications are authenticated as being from a member of the group and have not been altered, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a plurality of random numbers [figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components insofar as signing via a public key

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encryption process thereby generating uniquely signed components (i.e., pseudo-random data structures), and further encompassing use of the CPU ID public key signing aspects of the signed/verified components (i.e., assured anonymous CPU ID with authentication), as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the 'plurality of random numbers' aspects of the claim.];

distributing in a digital medium the plurality of random numbers to

the members of the group [figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed components are distributed to the users/network node processing elements, insofar as the customers of the DRM content of which the secure operating system components form the environment from which the content is so accessed, as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the '... distributing in a digital medium ... group ...' aspects of the claim.]; and

encrypting a message with a key generated from

a token and

the plurality of random numbers while

maintaining anonymity of authorship of the message [figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components signed, distributed, encrypted/decrypted, and verified for use in the DRM functions, and further encompassing use of the CPU ID public key signing aspects of the signed/verified components (i.e., assured anonymous CPU ID with authentication), as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the 'encrypting a message ... token ... random numbers' aspects of the claim.]”.

23. As per claim 26; “A method of performing anonymous electronic communications between members of a group wherein the communications are authenticated as being from a member of the group and have not been altered, but wherein said communications are revocable, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a plurality of random numbers [figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components insofar as signing via a public key encryption process thereby generating uniquely signed components (i.e., pseudo-random data structures), further encompassing the use of the CPU ID public key signing aspects of the signed/verified components (i.e., assured anonymous CPU ID with authentication), and further use of the said public key encryption process whereas the revocation of certificates via ACL services, as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘plurality of random numbers’ aspects of the claim.];

distributing in a digital medium the plurality of random numbers to

the members of the group [figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed components are distributed to the users/network node processing elements, insofar as the customers of the DRM content of which the secure operating system components form the environment from which the content is so accessed, as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘...distributing in a digital medium ... group ...’ aspects of the claim.];

encrypting a message with a key generated from
a token and

the plurality of random numbers [figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components signed, distributed, encrypted/decrypted, and verified for use in the DRM functions, and further encompassing use of the CPU ID public key signing aspects of the signed/verified components (i.e., assured anonymous CPU ID with authentication), as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘encrypting a message ... token ... random numbers’ aspects of the claim.]; and permitting revocation of the message by a revocation authority comprising

one or more of the members [figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components signed, distributed, encrypted/decrypted, and verified for use in the DRM functions, further encompassing the use of the CPU ID public key signing aspects of the signed/verified components (i.e., assured anonymous CPU ID with authentication) and further use of the said public key encryption process whereas the revocation of certificates via ACL services, as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the ‘encrypting a message ... token ... random numbers’ aspects of the claim.].”.

24. Claim 27 *additionally recites* the limitation that; “The method of claim 26 wherein the permitting step

maintains anonymity of authorship of the message.”.

The teachings of England et al suggest such limitations (i.e., figures 1-11 and associated descriptions, whereas the signed secure operating system components signed, distributed,

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encrypted/decrypted, and verified for use in the DRM functions, further encompassing the use of the CPU ID public key signing aspects of the signed/verified components (i.e., assured anonymous CPU ID with authentication) and further use of the said public key encryption process whereas the revocation of certificates via ACL services, as broadly interpreted by the examiner, clearly encompasses the 'permitting revocation ... maintains anonymity of authorship' aspects of the claim.).

Allowable Subject Matter

25. Claims 9-11, 18-20, 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, subject to the rejection consideration in the '112-2 rejection above.

Conclusion

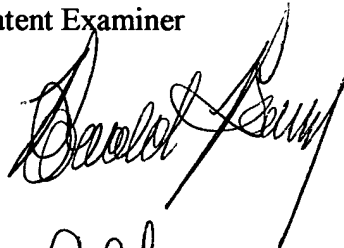
26. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from examiner should be directed to Ronald Baum, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3861, and whose unofficial Fax number is (571) 273-3861. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh, can be reached at (571) 272-3795. The Fax number for the organization where this application is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. For more information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ronald Baum

Patent Examiner


Cel
Primary Examiner
ARU3
1/26/00